

## FOUND SLAIN IN HIS SLEIGH.

STRANGER WHO WAS WITH WILLIAMS DISAPPEARS.

He Hired the Murdered Man to Drive Him Into the Country—No Apparent Motive for the Crime—Possibly of Farmers Seeking the Country Around for the Suspect.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., Feb. 2.—A man perhaps 35 or 40 years old, of light complexion, with a sandy mustache neatly trimmed, and dressed in a manner, went to the village of Watchung, near here, about 6 o'clock this morning and asked for a person named Warrenville. He seemed to be a great hunter and told those to whom he spoke that he had important business that necessitated his getting to Warrenville as quickly as horses could take the road.

Someone sent him to the home of William Williams, who occasionally lent out bays, but the man was away. Then the man went to the grocery store of George Williams and asked Mr. Williams if he could spare time to drive him to Warrenville. "I have an important engagement there with Mr. Pollack," said he. "If you can spare the time to take me there I will pay you well for your trouble."

Williams was busy and didn't want to go to the spot, but the stranger insisted and was so insistent in his insistence that Williams finally consented. He hitched up his horse to a sleigh and started with the man about 11 o'clock on the road to Warrenville.

That was the last seen of the person until Eugene Pope, a farmer, saw a horse and sleigh tied to a fence at the roadside about four miles from Watchung. At first Pope did not see there was a body in the sleigh, but as he drove closer he saw the body of a man in a crouching position on the bottom of the sleigh. He got out and saw at a glance that it was George Williams, whom he knew well.

Williams was dead apparently but a short time. The body was still warm. A bullet through the back had killed him. Pope found on examining the body.

The farmer tied the dead man's horse to his own vehicle and drove into Watchung with Williams' body. The news of the grocer having been murdered was all over the country in an hour or two. Farmers came into the village for miles around, carrying shotguns, rifles and pistols. With Pope and others leading a posse was organized to search the countryside for the stranger that had hired Williams to drive him to Warrenville.

The posse went to the spot where Pope found Williams' sleigh tied to the fence. There they got a clue that pointed directly to the stranger as the murderer. Footprints led straight across a broad field to the farmhouse of a man named Pollack, the name given by the stranger as the person to whom he was to drive Williams. Pollack's horse the footprints went by field and road to the railroad station at Millington, on the Lackawanna railroad. It was at least four miles to Pollack's house and perhaps two miles to Millington, and the murderer was walking fast or running, from the appearance of the footprints.

The station agent at Millington said he had seen a man that answered the description of the one the posse was after appear on the station platform some time in the afternoon, he could not remember just what time, perhaps 3 o'clock, he thought. Anyway, he said, it was just before a train for New York came along. The man did not buy a ticket, but it would have been possible for him to board the train without being especially noticed, said the station agent.

Several members of the posse had stopped at Pollack's house to see if Pollack could give about the pleasant mannered stranger that had been so anxious to see him that morning. No amount of hammering at the door could arouse anybody, and finally an entrance was forced. No one was at home. Pollack is a caterer who has lived in the neighborhood of Warrenville for about a year. He is a Frenchman and friends well with his neighbors. It was said to-night.

Sorely was made for him to-night, but he could not be found. Pollack is not thought to be connected with the murder. Farmers were left at his house to await his return.

County Detective George B. Cotten was put on the case in the afternoon, but was unable to get a clue of any practical value. Williams was about 40 years old and well to do. He was a resident of the Watchung Social Club and was to have been master of ceremonies at a country dance that had been arranged for to-night. He leaves a wife and one child. So far as known he had no enemies. He did not have much money with him when he drove away from the stranger, a few dollars in bills and change, perhaps, certainly not enough to tempt any one to the commission of murder.

The most puzzling thing about the case is the fact that this part of the State has known for years. The stranger in a hurry had nothing of the appearance of the criminal. On the contrary, he looked, the villagers say, like a business man.

He was about 5 feet 9 inches tall, and his weight was about 175 pounds, those that noticed him thought. His hair was light brown and he had a sandy mustache, closely cropped. He wore a well fitting suit of clothes of dark material, a dark overcoat and a brown fedora. He had no one in the village had ever seen him before, and he was certainly unknown to the man it is believed he shot through the head.

Mrs. Williams told the detective that her husband had no business troubles or other difficulties that would make a theory of robbery tenable for a moment. She was positive that her husband had been killed by the stranger.

Nothing about the appearance of the sleigh indicated that there had been a struggle and a careful examination of the Warrenville road for miles did not afford any further information along that line.

It is believed that the stranger shot Williams without warning. The bullet hole in Williams' back seems to indicate that the bullet went into his heart.

The villagers believe that something definite will be learned when Pollack reappears. All to-night squads of armed farmers patrolled the country roads and kept watch, with the idea that the murderer might be in hiding and might try to get away in the night.

T. A. CLANCY, TRENTON, N. J.

## LOCKHART WORTH \$150,000,000.

Daughter Cut Off With \$300,000 After All.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 2.—The announcement was made this afternoon that there will be no contest of the will of the late Charles Lockhart, who died leaving an estate valued at perhaps \$150,000,000 and who cut off one of his daughters, Mrs. W. S. Flower, wife of a dentist, with the income from \$300,000.

It was also announced that the four favored children of Mr. Lockhart would each "chip in" enough to make the share of Mrs. Flower as much as their own.

This "chip in" will be \$1,500,000 from each of the four, so about \$300,000,000 will be the portion of Mrs. Flower, who years ago angered her father by running off with a poor young dentist, Dr. Flower.

Figures now being brought out regarding the value of the estate of the late Standard Oil man cause a general surprise. That he was worth \$150,000,000 is now not doubted by any one. This will make the share of each of the five children about \$30,000,000. James H. Lockhart, John M. Lockhart, Mrs. Janet W. McCune and Mrs. Lee Mason are the four children who have decided to "chip in" with Mrs. Flower what would have been hers had she not so grievously offended her father.

It develops that it was because of the naming of her first born that Mrs. Flower was made to suffer the fate of a child practically disinherited. Friends close to the family told to-day that it was not because she had eloped with Dr. Flower that she suffered, for that was overlooked years ago, but when her first child came she neglected to name the child for Mr. Lockhart or any of the Lockhart relatives. This, according to friends, brought about the bitter feeling which resulted in the multimillionaire making a will practically cutting off the daughter.

Some idea of the extent of the holdings of Lockhart can be gathered from the statement made to-day by one who had handled part of his business for years, that his income from Standard Oil stock alone was \$18,000,000 annually. On each quarter he received \$4,500,000 from this stock, and while it was the largest of his holdings, it was not by any means all he had. He had at least \$10,000,000 in ocean steamship stocks.

## ARMY OFFICER CORRESPONDENT.

Capt. Taggart Accuses Capt. Bash, Hertha Runkle's Husband, in Divorce Suit.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 2.—It became known here to-day that Capt. Elmore F. Taggart of the United States Army, in divorce proceedings against his wife at Wooster, Ohio, has named Capt. Louis N. Bash as correspondent. Capt. Bash is in Manila, where he is living with his wife, who was Miss Bertha Runkle of New York, author of the popular novel "The Helmet of Navarre."

Capt. Taggart is also on his way to Manila as Quartermaster of the transport Sherman. On Monday depositions were taken here to support his wife's cross-complaint, and both Capt. Taggart and his wife were present. These depositions brought out cruel charges, on which the wife relies to get a divorce. It is expected that Capt. Taggart returns in about two months, the case will be called at Wooster, Ohio.

Mrs. Taggart left for the East to-day. She declares that the last night before sailing Capt. Taggart tried to effect a reconciliation with her, but she refused. She says that she can bring a score of witnesses to prove that he beat and otherwise ill-treated her. She asserts that the only ground for dragging in Capt. Bash is that Taggart saw her talking with Bash once and was jealous. She attributes Taggart's charges to the effect of the Philippine climate and to drink.

## SKULL FRACTURED, MONEY GONE.

Ellis Taken Home by Two Men He Thanked for It—No Dying.

George Ellis, a bill clerk employed in the offices of the American Express Company at Forty-sixth street and Madison avenue, left his desk at 9:30 o'clock on Wednesday night and said he was going home. He had been paid and had about \$50 in his pockets. Shortly after 11 o'clock the door bell of his boarding house, at 40 Lexington avenue, rang and two young men living in the house opened the door. They found Ellis propped up between two young men, who said they had brought him home. Ellis thanked them for what they had done and entered the house. He had a cut on the back of his head. The two men took him upstairs, washed his head and led him to his room.

Yesterday afternoon he was found unconscious in his room and sent to Flower Hospital. His skull is fractured and the doctors think he will die. When he got to the hospital he had only some small change, and his watch was taken from him by the men with whom Ellis worked in the express office, he was not a drinking man. The people at the boarding house and the police showed the effects of liquor there. After leaving work each night he was in the habit of crossing the bridge over the New York Central tracks at Forty-fifth street. His boarding house is just north of Forty-fifth street. This bridge is poorly lighted, and the police think that he may have been slugged and robbed while crossing it.

## BLUECOAT A CAR ROBBER.

Clare Was Locked Up the First Day He Went on Duty in Jersey City.

Policeman Harry Clore, who performed his first tour of duty yesterday, was stripped of his shield by Chief Benjamin Murphy of Jersey City last evening and locked up at police headquarters on a charge of being implicated in the wholesale robbery of freight cars at the Pennsylvania Railroad yards at Margate. He is the only man under arrest in connection with the thefts of thousands of dollars worth of merchandise.

Clare lives at 123 Beacon avenue, Jersey City Heights. He is married. He was appointed on Jan. 19 as a third grade patrolman and went out with the 12 o'clock platoon in the Third precinct on Wednesday night. He was on duty only six hours.

From the homes of six employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad who were arrested on Wednesday charged with stealing merchandise from freight cars the police yesterday carried away several wagon loads of the loot. Policemen carried the stolen goods by the armful from the wagons into a room in the headquarters building. The Jersey City police and the railroad officials declared that the value of the goods which the prisoners got away with in the eighteen months during which they are supposed to have operated will reach \$100,000.

William Smith, one of the men arrested, who lives at 138 Manhattan avenue, was a car inspector employed by the Erie railroad, and had long been regarded as a faithful employee. His wife is a church worker.

Clare, who is a native of New York, was arrested after he had been found with a stolen watch and a stolen ring.

Clare, who is a native of New York, was arrested after he had been found with a stolen watch and a stolen ring.

## CORONER JACKSON IS GUILTY.

SAY THE JURY, WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO MERCY.

Prisoner Turns White When He Hears the Verdict—Passed Last Night in the Tombs and Will Be Sentenced This Morning—Soliloquy Drove to Hush Crime.

Coroner Moses J. Jackson was found guilty last night by the jury that has been trying him in the General Sessions for soliciting a bribe to secure the abortion of a homicide case. The jury recommended mercy.

The crime of which he is convicted is punishable by a maximum of ten years imprisonment and \$5,000 fine. His conviction will vacate his office and disqualify him forever from office holding in this State unless the judgment is reversed. The Governor appoints his successor to serve until the end of the year. The Coroner is also liable to punishment for contempt, for misconduct in office.

The jury returned the verdict at 11:20 o'clock last night, after having been "out since 7 o'clock, with a recess for dinner. When they filed in and announced that they had reached a verdict, Recorder Goff was sent for. He was not far from the court room and was soon in his seat. The clerk asked the foreman, Sebastian Brinkman, what the jury's verdict was, and the latter replied:

"Guilty of bribery, with a strong recommendation of mercy."

Coroner Jackson, who stood against the rail turned white and wavered as if about to collapse. But presently he cheered up.

At the request of Frank Moss, counsel for Jackson, the jury was polled. Each answered "Guilty." Recorder Goff asked Mr. Moss if he had any application to make. Mr. Moss replied that he would make what applications were necessary when the Coroner was arraigned for sentence.

To-morrow is the last day of this term of the court, said the Recorder. "I do not sit here next month."

It was then agreed that Jackson should be arraigned for sentence at 10:30 o'clock this morning, and at that time Lawyer Moss will make his application, whatever it may be.

Jackson was turned over to Deputy Sheriff Kelly, who led him across the Bridge of Signs to the Tombs. As he was leaving the room Jackson turned to his lawyer and said in a weak voice:

"I'm sorry."

"We did the best we could," replied Moss, "but everything will come out all right."

It was learned afterward that a majority of the jury were agreed on a verdict of guilty from the first.

Dr. Jackson was convicted on the charge of soliciting a bribe of \$500 from Benjamin Reass to clear "Dr. John W. Alexander, who was arrested on the charge of having caused the death of a woman by a criminal operation. There is another indictment against Jackson for having attempted to bribe Deputy Assistant District Attorney Chadwick with \$500.

Frank Moss, Dr. Jackson's counsel, was the only witness for the Coroner yesterday. He testified to the conversation he had with Reass in the back room of a cigar store at 107 West Twenty-first street, after the arrest of Dr. Jackson. Reass had testified that he understood the conversation to be confidential "under certain conditions," but Mr. Moss had a typewritten copy of it, which was used by Lawyer Greenberg in examining Mr. Moss. Mr. Moss explained that he told Reass that he didn't want to defend a guilty man. He went on the stand, he says, because the story told by Reass before the Grand Jury and on the witness stand differed from the story told by Reass in the cigar store. At that conversation, according to Mr. Moss, Reass said that Dr. Jackson didn't ask him for any money and that Dr. Jackson's reason for adjourning the Alexander case was because he felt he didn't have jurisdiction.

"Mr. Moss, you have been a lawyer for twenty-four years," said Mr. Rand, "and yet you went to the back room of a cigar store at night and discussed your client's reputation with a witness for the People?"

"Yes, sir," replied Mr. Moss.

Mr. Chadwick and Lawyer Reass then testified in rebuttal. Chadwick simply denied that he had ever asked Jackson for money, and Reass denied a good deal of Jackson's testimony. Miss F. E. Madison, a stenographer in Mr. Rand's office, testified that Coroner Jackson had sent for Chadwick several times, and on one occasion sent a message inviting Chadwick to lunch at Reass's.

In summing up, Mr. Moss declared that the case against Dr. Jackson was either manufactured in the District Attorney's office, or else Chadwick was looking for money for his own pocket.

"This case is not clean and will not wash out," he said. "If Chadwick was not a grifter he was a spy detective. This isn't a mere case. It is a Chadwick case, and Chadwick proved himself a Judas. Jerome never made up a trickier case. I have helped him make up some of his gratest cases. I know his men in New York. No man in New York owes as much to a man as the District Attorney owes to me. I am entitled to fair treatment."

In reply Mr. Rand said: "No oily tongued, sleek hypocrite can disguise the issue in this case. I do not forget that the man who solicited a bribe to secure the abortion of a homicide case, and that a man's heart usually is in professing affection for the man into whose vitals he was then trying to turn the long knife. Spoke me praise from such a man, for I would stand shamed in his praise and wear his eulogy as a decoration of honor. When Mr. Moss asked why we hadn't corroborated Reass and Chadwick with the testimony of a detective, I knew he had never been intimate with William Travers Jerome. Mr. Jerome would not dream of calling a detective to support the word of a grudge-man of his staff. This man prates of decency and honor. I never saw a dirtier piece of work in a court room."

## TEN-YEAR-OLD IN THE GALLERY.

Gerry Agents Swoop Down on the Third Avenue Theatre Doorkeeper.

James Howard, the doorkeeper of the Third Avenue Theatre, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Agents Kelly and Fogarty of the Gerry society on a charge of permitting minors to attend the performance of "Escaped From the Baram" without their parents or guardians. Complaints had been sent to the society that a number of boys were in the habit of going to the theatre and buying tickets admitting them to the log gallery.

The agents had to disguise themselves to get among the gallery boys. They picked out James Ward, 10 years old, of 242 East Forty-fifth street, and two other boys as witnesses and took the doorkeeper and the boys to the Yorkville police court.

Magistrate Whitman held Howard in \$100 bail for trial in Special Sessions.

## ZERO WEATHER TO-DAY.

Unless the Prophets Are Wrong—The Ground Hog Takes His View.

The hibernating ground hog woke up yesterday as he is required to do by tradition and took a fleeting glance at the snow-blanketed world. The sun was shining and the mercury tumbling, and fearing that his shadow might get frostbitten, he took the nearest subway station and got beyond the sunshine and the icicles.

The official weather prophets, who live in happy places, endorsed the sentiments of the ground hog. They found their charts full of frosty sunlight at nearly all points west and northwest of this neighborhood and declared that to-day was going to be the coldest, probably, of the winter. It will not be so frigid as it was yesterday at Devil's Lake, N. D. (the ancient fires of which are evidently extinguished), where the mercury got to 28 degrees below zero, or at Havre, Mont., where it was 40 degrees below.

The ground hog took his view of the weather from the window of the subway station, and found it to be a very different one from the one he saw from his hole.

## FIRE IN THE MARBLE CHURCH.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MEETING ROOM A WRECK.

Church Proper Escapes and Dr. Burrell's Study Is Undamaged—Memorial Window Broken—Holland House and Broadway Hotels in Highly Nervous State.

The Sunday school and meeting room of the Marble Collegiate Church, at Fifth avenue and Twenty-ninth street, which is part of the church building, but separated from the church proper by a wall of masonry, was gutted by fire last night. The police and firemen gave the damage as \$10,000, but the Rev. Dr. David James Burrell, the pastor, says the memorial window on the Twenty-ninth street side, which was broken, cost \$2,000.

A passerby at 7 o'clock saw smoke coming out of the entrance of the Sunday school, at 1 West Twenty-ninth street. He rang the bell at Twenty-eighth street. An alarm from this box brings four engines, two hook and ladder companies and two battalion chiefs.

The firemen had to work at the heavy oak doors for several minutes before they could force them and they ran a ladder up to the memorial window over the door. In this way the window was broken. The minute the doors were opened smoke in great volume poured out and there was considerable flame to be seen.

The fire had eaten its way from the basement up to the second floor. There was only two floors. The firemen had to tear the floors and ceiling to get at the fire, and they left the interior of the building a wreck. The fire seemed to have caught from the furnace.

Dr. Burrell's study and library on the ground floor were not damaged. Dr. Burrell has a fine library in his study. All the time the firemen were at work no one appeared who had anything to do with the church. Dr. Burrell lives at 248 West Twenty-fifth street and was visiting the Rev. Donald Sage Mackay in his study at the Collegiate Church at Fifth avenue and Forty-eighth street. The SUN telephoned news of the fire to his house, and his wife telephoned to Dr. Mackay's church, but Dr. Burrell had started home. When he got there he hurried downtown again to see what damage had been done.

The last person in the church before the fire was discovered was the man who takes charge of the furnace in the school and of the structure. He left at 5 o'clock after banking the furnace fire for the night.

The fire in the church scared the people living in the Holland House. The hotel adjoins the church on the north. There is a space between the structures, and some time before the fire was discovered the hotel began to fill up with smoke. The hotel managers, hunted high and low in their building for the cause of the smoke, but couldn't find any fire. While the attacks of the hotel and the guests were getting more and more nervous every minute the rattle of the fire engines was heard.

The fire held up traffic on Broadway and Fifth avenue for three-quarters of an hour. Lines of hose were strung across both thoroughfares. Out of the engine stood the way from the hotel Breslin and the Gibsey House and pumped water from the hydrant on the northwest corner of Broadway and Twenty-ninth street. The noise of the engine created quite a flurry in both hotels.

## FAT END SEAT MAN ARGUES IT.

Wouldn't Get Up in Theatre, and Late Comers Had to Try Toether Aisle.

Shortly after the curtain went up on the first act of "The Yankee Consul" at Wallack's last night a man and a woman in evening dress were ushered down the aisle to the right of the middle section. A fat man on the end seat of their row refused to get up and let the pair squeeze by him on their way to seats Nos. 5 and 6.

"Not on your life," said he. "Never will I get up for anybody who hasn't got sense enough to find his seat properly. Here are twelve seats in this row. You are trying to get in from the right side, thereby disturbing six people after the show has begun and we're all interested. If you had any sense you would have gone to the left side of this section and disturbed only four people. People like you ought to have a guardian."

People began to stir and turn around and grumble at the noise. Raymond Hitchcock and the others of the company noticed the interruption and the show lagged a bit. The manager was sent for. The fat man sat on what he thought were his rights. No, he would not move. Let the dunder-head go to the right side, said he.

The girl with the blunder was much embarrassed. The manager was embarrassed, but helpless. He admitted that several minutes wait the fat man had in the aisle. The pair went around to the other side, with half the house grinning at them.

## ONE HOCH WIFE POISONED?

Chicago Police Believe They Can Convict the Alleged Bigamist of Murder.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—Evidence that Mrs. Marie Welker-Hoch was poisoned with arsenic, procured by her bigamist husband, Johann Hoch, is believed by the police now to be established definitely. An effort may be made to have Hoch indicted for murder before the present Grand Jury.

Coroner Hoffman is satisfied that arsenic was administered to the woman and that this poison caused her death. His opinion is based upon the result thus far of the chemical analysis being made by Dr. Lewis. Arsenic is charged with the body of Mrs. Welker-Hoch's stomach.

Dr. Lewis has completed an analysis of the embalming fluid used by the undertaker who had charge of the burial and it was his testimony that the latter was held for trial.

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS INDICTED.

Exposure by Special Court Commissioner Bears Fruit.

PATERSON, N. J., Feb. 2.—The Grand Jury of Passaic county, in finishing its labors for the January term of this court, handed in today indictments against Freeholders, contractors and inspectors of county works as a result of recent exposures made by John W. Harding, a special court commissioner.

True bills have been found against the Cyclopaean Iron Company in the persons of the directors, Messrs. Jones, Herrold and Lozier, for poor work on the Schuylert street bridge and a bridge at Pompton.

George Sisco, another contractor, was indicted for poor work on the Hudson street culvert and William Sherman, another contractor, was indicted for jobbery in the Cyclopaean bridge work at Little Falls.

County Engineer William Whitmore has several indictments against him in connection with many kinds of county work, covering changes in plans for bridges and culverts without work on the Hudson river for extra work. John P. Romaine and Isaac Walton, inspectors of bridge work, were indicted for passing on and certifying faulty bridge work as good.

The investigation was begun through the efforts of the Taxpayers' Association.

## NEW TOURS TO PINEBURST, N. C.

Via Pennsylvania Railroad. Leave New York February 10 and March 31. Round trip rate from New York \$22. Full information of C. Sticks, E. P. A., 263 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

## WHOLESALE APPETIZING, PURE.

Such is Muller's Scotch Ale—a delicious barley malt brew—more refreshing than English hop ale.

## FIRE IN THE MARBLE CHURCH.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MEETING ROOM A WRECK.

Church Proper Escapes and Dr. Burrell's Study Is Undamaged—Memorial Window Broken—Holland House and Broadway Hotels in Highly Nervous State.

The Sunday school and meeting room of the Marble Collegiate Church, at Fifth avenue and Twenty-ninth street, which is part of the church building, but separated from the church proper by a wall of masonry, was gutted by fire last night. The police and firemen gave the damage as \$10,000, but the Rev. Dr. David James Burrell, the pastor, says the memorial window on the Twenty-ninth street side, which was broken, cost \$2,000.

A passerby at 7 o'clock saw smoke coming out of the entrance of the Sunday school, at 1 West Twenty-ninth street. He rang the bell at Twenty-eighth street. An alarm from this box brings four engines, two hook and ladder companies and two battalion chiefs.

The firemen had to work at the heavy oak doors for several minutes before they could force them and they ran a ladder up to the memorial window over the door. In this way the window was broken. The minute the doors were opened smoke in great volume poured out and there was considerable flame to be seen.

The fire had eaten its way from the basement up to the second floor. There was only two floors. The firemen had to tear the floors and ceiling to get at the fire, and they left the interior of the building a wreck. The fire seemed to have caught from the furnace.

Dr. Burrell's study and library on the ground floor were not damaged. Dr. Burrell has a fine library in his study. All the time the firemen were at work no one appeared who had anything to do with the church. Dr. Burrell lives at 248 West Twenty-fifth street and was visiting the Rev. Donald Sage Mackay in his study at the Collegiate Church at Fifth avenue and Forty-eighth street. The SUN telephoned news of the fire to his house, and his wife telephoned to Dr. Mackay's church, but Dr. Burrell had started home. When he got there he hurried downtown again to see what damage had been done.

The last person in the church before the fire was discovered was the man who takes charge of the furnace in the school and of the structure. He left at 5 o'clock after banking the furnace fire for the night.

The fire in the church scared the people living in the Holland House. The hotel adjoins the church on the north. There is a space between the structures, and some time before the fire was discovered the hotel began to fill up with smoke. The hotel managers, hunted high and low in their building for the cause of the smoke, but couldn't find any fire. While the attacks of the hotel and the guests were getting more and more nervous every minute the rattle of the fire engines was heard.

The fire held up traffic on Broadway and Fifth avenue for three-quarters of an hour. Lines of hose were strung across both thoroughfares. Out of the engine stood the way from the hotel Breslin and the Gibsey House and pumped water from the hydrant on the northwest corner of Broadway and Twenty-ninth street. The noise of the engine created quite a flurry in both hotels.

## FAT END SEAT MAN ARGUES IT.

Wouldn't Get Up in Theatre, and Late Comers Had to Try Toether Aisle.

Shortly after the curtain went up on the first act of "The Yankee Consul" at Wallack's last night a man and a woman in evening dress were ushered down the aisle to the right of the middle section. A fat man on the end seat of their row refused to get up and let the pair squeeze by him on their way to seats Nos. 5 and 6.

"Not on your life," said he. "Never will I get up for anybody who hasn't got sense enough to find his seat properly. Here are twelve seats in this row. You are trying to get in from the right side, thereby disturbing six people after the show has begun and we're all interested. If you had any sense you would have gone to the left side of this section and disturbed only four people. People like you ought to have a guardian."

People began to stir and turn around and grumble at the noise. Raymond Hitchcock and the others of the company noticed the interruption and the show lagged a bit. The manager was sent for. The fat man sat on what he thought were his rights. No, he would not move. Let the dunder-head go to the right side, said he.

The girl with the blunder was much embarrassed. The manager was embarrassed, but helpless. He admitted that several minutes wait the fat man had in the aisle. The pair went around to the other side, with half the house grinning at them.

## ONE HOCH WIFE POISONED?

Chicago Police Believe They Can Convict the Alleged Bigamist of Murder.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—Evidence that Mrs. Marie Welker-Hoch was poisoned with arsenic, procured by her bigamist husband, Johann Hoch, is believed by the police now to be established definitely. An effort may be made to have Hoch indicted for murder before the present Grand Jury.

Coroner Hoffman is satisfied that arsenic was administered to the woman and that this poison caused her death. His opinion is based upon the result thus far of the chemical analysis being made by Dr. Lewis. Arsenic is charged with the body of Mrs. Welker-Hoch's stomach.

Dr. Lewis has completed an analysis of the embalming fluid used by the undertaker who had charge of the burial and it was his testimony that the latter was held for trial.

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS INDICTED.

Exposure by Special Court Commissioner Bears Fruit.

PATERSON, N. J., Feb. 2.—The Grand Jury of Passaic county, in finishing its labors for the January term of this court, handed in today indictments against Freeholders, contractors and inspectors of county works as a result of recent exposures made by John W. Harding, a special court commissioner.

True bills have been found against the Cyclopaean Iron Company in the persons of the directors, Messrs. Jones, Herrold and Lozier, for poor work on the